



History of the King's Scout Badge



A **King's Scout** is a Venturer who has attained the peak youth award achievable in this section. This award is presented in the Commonwealth realms, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, where Scouts operate under the patronage of King Charles III. Whether the award recipient is a Queen's or King's Scout depends on a decree issued by the current Monarch of the Commonwealth.

In 1909, just two years after Baden-Powell ran the first scout camp on Brownsea Island he was spending the weekend with the King of England, Edward VII. Over the course of the weekend, Lieutenant-General Robert Baden-Powell, as he was then, was informed that he was to be knighted for "services to the country, in particular for the starting of Scouts". This led to further conversation with the King over the weekend where it was proposed that the highest qualified scouts might be recognised as Scouts of the King, ergo "King's Scouts."

King Edward VII died before this could happen, but his successor, George V, adopted the idea and the first King's Scouts were presented in 1910. The badge bore an image of the Small Imperial Crown as worn by King Edward VII, and the presentation was held in the grounds of Balmoral Castle where the King personally presented the King's Scout with a Royal Certificate.

Both these traditions continue to this day. The badge still retains the image of the King Edward VII crown, albeit with updated colours and badge shape, and the presentation of the Certificate is held in the grounds of the Royal Representative (e.g. the Governor here in Victoria.)

After the establishment of the Senior Scout section in 1946, only Senior Scouts (or Boy Scouts over 15) could become King's Scouts.

The badge was first awarded in Victoria in 1911 as the King's Scout. Following the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, the name was changed to Queen's Scout, effective from June 1953. The terminology changed to Queen's Scout Award in the Program Review of 2008, and then after the coronation of King Charles III in 2023, the name reverted to King's Scout Award effective from May 2024.

Initially the award required demonstrated proficiency in standardised scoutcraft and skills useful for service to others and the nation. The current requirements are different in each country and now focus on personal development and typically involve achieving challenges from several areas such as community involvement, outdoor activities, personal growth and leadership development.

As of 2024 there have been over 15,360 recipients of this prestigious award in Victoria and the records show that less than 4% of Venturers gain the King's Scout Award.

For <today's recipient>, this is a culmination of <his/her> endeavours over a number years and <he/she> should be congratulated on this great achievement.



Symbolism of the King's and Queen's Scout Badge

The crown represents the allegiance to the King through the Parliament and Laws of Australia and the Governor of Victoria as the King's representative. The crown image reproduces the Small Imperial Crown as worn by King Edward VII.

The "V" shape on the badge indicates that the award is presented to a Venturer.

The cross at the top of the badge represents God and the King's scout spiritual awareness.

The ball (or orb) signifies we are all members of the one worldwide Scouting movement.

The two symmetrical Fleur de Lys inside the crown represent the Scout Law while the cross represents the Scout Promise.

The three circles at the base of the crown signify the three sections of the Scouting Movement (Cubs, Scouts and Venturers) that the recipient has been involved in prior to this award. (before Joey Scouts were created).

The six circles on each side of the crown signify the activity areas which the recipient undertakes to complete the elements of the Venturer Award Scheme.

The total symmetrical design signifies the "all round" training that the Queen's Scout has achieved.